Increasing handling capacity of major Ports

111. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the year 2000-2001, the existing major ports handled 271 MT of cargo against a handling capacity of 251 MT;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 500 ships had to be turned away from Mumbai Ports for want of berths from them to anchor; and

(c) if so, Government's planning to increase their port handling capacity to cater to the growing trade requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. In fact, during the year 2000-2001 all existing major ports in the country handled an aggregate cargo of 281 MT against handling capacity of 291 MT as on 31.03.2001.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

News-item "Parents live in the barsati, sons take away their home"

112. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Parents live in the barsati, sons take away their home" appeaing in the Indian Express, dated June 27, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether her Ministry has any machinery or authority to help such old parents in distress; and